GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3627
ANSWERED ON:21.03.2001
CLOSING DOWN OF INDIAN EMBASSY
TUFANI SAROJ

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) Whether the Government have closed down its embassy in Bonn (Germany) and shifted it to Munich;

(b) If so, the reasons therefor;

(c) Whether the non resident Indians residing over there have opposed the move; and

(d) If so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI U.V. KRISHNAM RAJU)

a & b) The reunification of Germany in October 1989, the subsequent decision of the Deutsche Bundestag (German Parliament) in June 1991 to return the capital of the Federal Republic of Germany from Bonn to Berlin, followed by the actual transfer of the capital Berlin in August 1999, necessitated the transfer of the Embassy of India to the Federal Republic of Germany from Bonn to Berlin in October 1999. A temporary office dealing with residual consular and administrative matters is being maintained in Bonn since October 1999, which would be wound up with the transfer of its work to the Consulate General of India in Munich, once the latter becomes operational. Munich is the capital of the state of Bavaria which is the largest Federal State in Germany and is the fastest growing State economically. India has no Consulate located in Southern Germany. The new Consulate in Munich would be the first one in a dynamic, hi-tech and economically significant part of Germany.

c & d) A number of Indian associations based in the German State of North Rhine-Westphalia (where Bonn is located) have submitted representations in favor of maintaining a Consulate or an Office of the Embassy of India in Bonn, or alternatively in some other city in the State of North Rhine Westphalia. Alternative arrangements are being made for meeting the consular, cultural and commercial requirements of the people in the region.